# INDUSTRY PROFILES

## Agricultural Industry

**2014**

Alberta

**Overview:**

The Agricultural industry[1] in Alberta includes a variety of establishments or services:

- Crop production: farms, orchards, greenhouses, nurseries and other places that grow crops seeds (excluding forestry products);
- Animal production and aquaculture: ranches, farms, feedlots and other places that raise animals, produce animal products or fatten animals;
- Fishing, hunting, and trapping activities: catching fish and other wild animals;
- Agricultural support services for crop production and animal production.

| **Section A: Business Environment** |
|---|
| 1. 2013 Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates |
| 2. Industry's Growth |
| 3. Facts, Trends and Outlook |
| 4. Size of Businesses in Alberta and the Industry |
| **Section B: Human Resources Profile** |
| 1. Occupational Information |
| 2. Demographics: Gender and Age |
| 3. Wages |
| **Section C: Additional Information** |
| Links to Industry Associations |

[1] North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 2007 groups 111, 112, 114, 1151 and 1152, not including support activities for forestry 1153.

## Section A: Business Environment

### 1. 2013 Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates

Table 1

| | Alberta | Agricultural Industry |
|---|---|---|
| Number of employed | 2,211,000 | 63,300 |
| Employment Share | N/A | 2.9% |
| Number of unemployed | 107,200 | N/A |
| Unemployment rate | 4.6% | N/A |

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0008, 2014
Note: N/A denotes non-applicable and also data suppressed by Statistics Canada due to insufficient sample size. Employment share is obtained by dividing the number of employment in this industry by total employment in Alberta

For more information on employment numbers or for a historical comparison, please go to the Labour Force Statistics[2] or Statistics Canada[3] websites.

### 2. Industry's Growth

- The Agricultural industry accounted for 2.9% of total employment in Alberta in 2013.
- Employment in is this industry expected to grow at an average rate of 0.4% from 2013 to 2017.
- The industry is expected to account for 2.5% of total employment in Alberta in 2015.

For more information, see the *Alberta Modified Canadian Occupational Projection System (COPS) Outlook 2013 – 2017, Industry Employment Outlook*[4] online and the Alberta Learning Information Service (ALIS)[5] website for descriptions of industries.

[2] See http://work.alberta.ca/labour/labour-force-statistics-and-annual-reviews.html
[3] See http://www.statcan.gc.ca
[4] See http://work.alberta.ca/documents/cops-alberta-industry-outlook-2013-2017.pdf
[5] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca

## 3. Facts, Trends and Outlook

According to Statistics Canada's National Economic Accounts, the Agricultural industry accounted for approximately 1.6%[6] of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product in 2012, down from 2.6% in 2002. Its contribution to Alberta's total employment declined from 3.7% in 2002 to 2.9% in 2013.

Employment (the total number of employees and self-employed people, 15 years and over) in 2013 was 12.6% higher than its level in 2012. Over the last 10 years, employment decreased from 68,900 people in 2003 to 63,300 people in 2013, an 8.1% decrease. There were 17,800 employees in the industry in 2013, of whom 87.1% were full time and 12.9% were part time. Self-employed people accounted for 73.3% of total employment in the industry in 2012.

Table 2

| Characteristic | Alberta | Agriculture |
|---|---|---|
| Median Retirement Age (years) | 62.7 | 72.6 |
| Average Number of Hours Worked per Week (in reference week, main job) | 37.8 | 46.3 |
| Multiple Jobholders (% of total employment) | 5.4% | 8.1% |
| Average Job Tenure (months) | 88.1 | 246.2 |
| Employees Under Union Coverage (%) | 19.0% | N/A |
| Employees Working Overtime per Week (%) | 20.2% | N/A |

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Tables 282-0022, 282-0031, 282-0042, 282-0078 and 282-0084, 2014, and custom tabulation (median retirement age)
Note: N/A denotes data suppressed by Statistics Canada due to insufficient sample size. The percentage of multiple jobholders in Alberta is obtained by dividing the number of multiple jobholders in Alberta by total employment in Alberta. The percentage of multiple jobholders in the industry is obtained by dividing the number of multiple jobholders in the industry by total employment in the industry. This calculation method also applies to the percentage of employees under union coverage and the percentage of employees working overtime per week.

According to *Alberta Occupational Demand Outlook 2013-2023*[7], employment growth in the following occupations: Agricultural and horticultural workers; and Contractors, operators and supervisors in agriculture, horticulture and aquaculture, is expected to be below Alberta's average rate for all occupations of 1.6%.

---

[6] This is for North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 2007 code 11: Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting which includes support activities for forestry 1153.
[7] See http://work.alberta.ca/labour/occupational-demand-and-supply-forecast.html.

## 4. Size of Businesses in Alberta and the Industry

Table 3

| Establishment Size | Businesses in Alberta | | Businesses in Agriculture | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number of Employees | %* | Number of Employees | %* |
| Less than 20 employees | 654,800 | 35.5% | 11,500 | 64.6% |
| 20 to 99 employees | 648,500 | 35.1% | 5,800 | 32.6% |
| 100 to 500 employees | 352,600 | 19.1% | N/A | N/A |
| Over 500 employees | 189,500 | 10.3% | N/A | N/A |

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0076, 2014
* Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.
Note: N/A denotes data suppressed by Statistics Canada due to insufficient sample size. Statistics Canada's survey methodology for determining establishment size differs from the one it uses in the Labour Force Survey to determine total employment. As a result, the total number of employees by establishment size will not be the same as total employment in the industry, except by coincidence.

## Section B: Human Resources Profile

### 1. Occupational Information

Some examples of occupations in the Agricultural industry include:

- farm worker;
- dairy producer;
- greenhouse operator;
- animal care attendant; and
- beekeeper.

For a complete listing of all occupations related to this industry as well as detailed information on education and skill requirements, visit the Alberta Occupational Profiles[8] website.

### 2. Demographics: Gender and Age

According to the Labour Force Survey, the gender breakdown in the Agricultural industry in 2013 was as follows:

- women employed: 19,300 people, or 30.5%
- men employed: 44,000 people, or 69.5%

Overall in Alberta, women accounted for 45.0 % and men made up 55.0 % of total employment (for all industries).

Table 4

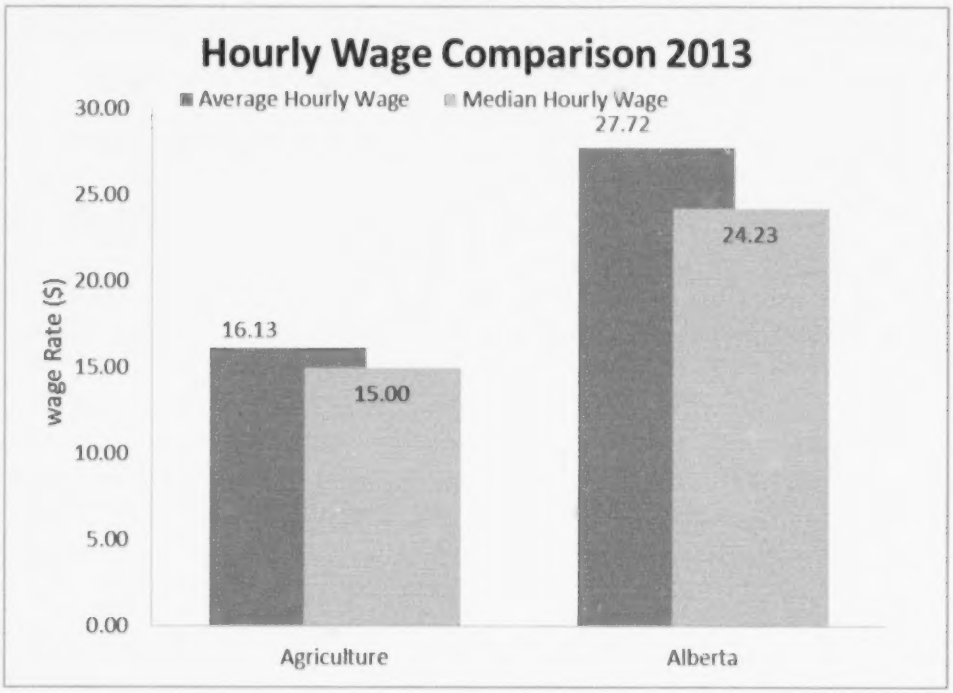
| Age Characteristics | Employment in Alberta | | Employment in Agriculture | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | %* | Number | %* |
| 15-24 years | 317,600 | 14.4% | 5,600 | 8.8% |
| 25-54 years | 1,496,200 | 67.7% | 31,800 | 50.2% |
| 55 years and over | 397,200 | 17.9% | 25,900 | 41.0% |

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0008, 2014
* Percentages may not add up 100 due to rounding.

[8] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo

## 3. Wages

Chart 1




Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0072, 2014
Note: The average hourly wage is obtained by dividing the sum of the wages of all the employees by the total number of employees. The median hourly wage is that wage below which half the employees earn and above which half the employees earn.

**Wage and Salary Information for Selected Occupations**

Table 5

| Occupation | Average Hourly Wage | | | Average Annual Salary |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Starting | Overall | Top | |
| Agricultural representative, consultant and specialist | $ 32.98 | $ 34.02 | $ 43.32 | $ 79,754 |
| General farm worker | $ 15.38 | $ 18.26 | $ 21.05 | $ 43,653 |
| Farmer and farm manager (dairy producer) | $ 20.50 | $ 23.70 | $ 26.96 | $ 55,800 |
| Farm supervisor and specialized livestock worker (swine technician) | $ 16.23 | $ 19.35 | $ 22.42 | $ 45,132 |

Data Source: 2013 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey

For more information on the *2013 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey*, refer to the WAGEinfo[9] website. For job descriptions, duties, required skills and education requirements for specific occupations in the Agricultural industry, visit the ALIS[10] website.

[9] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca/wageinfo
[10] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca

## Section C: Additional Information

### Links to Industry Associations

- Alberta Agricultural Economics Association (http://aaea.ab.ca)
- Alberta Barley Commission (http://www.albertabarley.com)
- Alberta Chicken Producers (http://www.chicken.ab.ca)
- Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency Ltd. (http://alma.alberta.ca/)
- Alberta Milk Producers (http://www.albertamilk.com)
- Agriculture and Food Council (http://www.agfoodcouncil.com)
- Alberta Pork (http://www.albertapork.com)
- Alberta Farm Fresh Producers Association (http://www.albertafarmfresh.com)
- Canadian Wheat Board (http://www.cwb.ca)

Call us or visit our website for more information or to find the following publications:

- 2013 Annual Alberta Labour Market Review
- Monthly Alberta Labour Force Statistics Highlights and Packages
- Alberta's Occupational Demand and Supply Outlook
- Alberta Labour Force Profiles
- Alberta Industry Profiles

www.work.alberta.ca/labour.html (see Labour Market Information)
In Edmonton: 780.422.4266
Long distance: 1.800.661.3753

© 2014 Government of Alberta.
Published: April 2014.
ISBN 978-1-4601-1642-5
ISSN 2292-8871